FD-302 (Rev. 4-15-64)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

Rev. RALPH DAVID ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, telephonically advised with regards to his statement to the press, which was quoted in "The Washington Post" newspaper, Washington, D. C., on January 29, 1969, that what he told the press was that he believed in view of the assassiantions of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS and MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., there would be an indication to him that there may be a conspiracy among the forces of evil to do away with any young militant who stands for righteousness. Rev. ABERNATHY advised that he has no specific information or other evidence that a conspiracy exists with respect to the specific assassination of Dr. KING. He advised that the statement made to the press on January 29, 1969, in which he referred to a conspiracy concerned the assassination of all of the above-mentioned persons. In regard to those assassinations he made it clear he has no evidence indicating a conspiracy and it is only his belief or fear on his part that such a conspiracy does exist. He stated he has no idea what individuals or forces would be involved in such a conspiracy.

Rev. ABERNATHY advised that several months ago Rev. JAMES LAWSON, Minister of the Centenary Methodist Church at Memphis, Tennessee, told him, Rev. ABERNATHY, that it was Rev. LAWSON's understanding that the day before the assassination of Dr. KING, two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. KING was killed, were moved to another fire station. According to Rev. LAWSON that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. LAWSON, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. KING was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. KING was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing.

On 1/30/69 at Atlanta, Georgia File# Atlanta 44-2386 -2212

by SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON :vsc Date dictated 1/31/69

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